

2001-present YAVAPAI COUNTY ATTORNEY

First elected in November of 2000, Ms. Polk is the first female to hold the office of Yavapai County Attorney; she is currently serving her 6th 4-year term. As County Attorney, Ms. Polk manages a staff of 100 employees, with both criminal and civil duties, and an annual budget of approximately 8 million dollars. The Office prosecutes all felony and juvenile offenses that occur in Yavapai County, misdemeanors that occur in the unincorporated areas of the County, and provides legal representation to all county departments. In addition to her administrative duties, Ms. Polk has personally prosecuted major felony offenders, including financial abuse cases involving elderly victims.

1994-2000 DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY, YAVAPAI COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- Prosecuted child molesters, first degree homicide cases, elder financial fraud, sexual assault, domestic violence and other serious felony cases
- Legal counsel for the Yavapai County Public Fiduciary, Sheriff, Assessor, Treasurer, Planning and Zoning Department, Health Department and Board of Supervisors

1983-1994 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

- Criminal prosecution
- Civil litigation
- Consumer Fraud and Financial Fraud litigation

1982-1983 ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

Law Clerk to Justice Jack D.H. Hays

Education J.D. Arizona State University College of Law, Tempe, AZ. 1982
B.A. French, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. 1978

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Justice Counts National Steering Committee, appointed November 2020
- Governor's Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership, appointed Chair 2020
- Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC), Chair, 2011-present
- Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, Chair, 2018-22, Vice-Chair 2016-17, Member since 2012
- Committee on Criminal Justice Reform, Chair, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2019-present
- Arizona Supreme Court Task Force to Supplement Keeping of the Record by Electronic Means, appointed May 2019
- Governor's Arizona Human Trafficking Council, Member 2013-present; Chair, Policy Committee, 2018-present; Chair, Victim Services Committee 2013-18, developed state protocols for response to child sex trafficking
- Yavapai County Mental Health Coalition, Executive Committee, 2017-present
- MATFORCE (Yavapai County Substance Abuse Coalition), Chair and Founding Member, 2006-present

- Community Counts, Chair, 2010-present
- Arizona Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Task Force, Member 2016
- President, Arizonans for Responsible Drug Policy, 2015-present
- Chair, No Prop 205 Political Committee, 2016, Chaired the committee to defeat the initiative to legalize recreational marijuana in Arizona
- Arizona County Attorneys and Sheriffs Association (ACASA), President, 2010-11
- Arizona Association of Counties (AACo), Board of Directors, 2010-11
- Prevent Child Abuse, Board of Directors, 2009-2013, Secretary
- Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee, Member, 2014
- AWEE, Yavapai Advisory Council Member, 2009-2013
- Arizona State Director, National District Attorneys Association, elected 2007-2009
- Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct, Attorney Board Member, 2004-2010
- Arizona Forensic Services Advisory Committee, 2008-present
- Arizona Women Lawyers Honoring Justice O'Connor, Executive Committee
- Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking Council (PANT), Board Member
- Yavapai Family Advocacy Center (YFAC), Advisory Board Member
- Statewide Elder Abuse Task Force
- Yavapai County Elder Abuse Task Force

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN OFFICE

- "What You Do Matters: Lesson from the Holocaust," Faculty Member and Facilitator since 2012
- Yavapai County Attorney's Office Drug Diversion Program, launched May 2020
- Partnered with Yavapai County Sheriff's Office to develop and advance Reach Out, a program to connect inmates to services immediately upon release
- Partnered with the Yavapai County Mental Health Coalition to decriminalize mental illness, train law enforcement in Mental Health First Aid, and promote Mobile Crisis Teams in the county
- Development of Yavapai County Attorney's Office public website for all criminal cases, January 2019, <http://www.yavapai.us/coatty/Case-Statistics-Welcome>
- Partner in Yavapai County therapeutic courts including Veterans Court, Drug/DUI Court, Mental Health Court
- 24/7 Sobriety Team Pilot, Project Team Leader, 2017-2019
- In partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Jewish Community Foundation of the Greater Prescott Area, developed "What You Do Matters: Lessons from the Holocaust" training for criminal justice professionals, 2012-present
- In partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, hosted "Prosecutors and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust for Prosecutors," 2006-2007, and "Law and Society: How the Courts Failed Nazi Germany," 2007-2009
- Developed state protocols for response to child sex trafficking as a member of the Governor's Arizona Human Trafficking Council, 2013-2015
- Partner in the Development and Formation of Early Disposition Court (awarded the 2004 Arizona Supreme Court Justice for Better Arizona Award)
- Founding Member of MATFORCE (Yavapai County Substance Abuse Coalition) to proactively address substance abuse issues (awarded CADCA Coalition of Excellence, 2013)
- Yavapai County Overdose Fatality Review Board, project of MATFORCE, 2016-present
- Yavapai Reentry Project, project of MATFORCE to assist and mentor inmates leaving prison for success in the community, 2011-present

- Successfully prosecuted State v. James Ray for deaths of three participants in his sweat lodge
- Successfully prosecuted significant elder abuse cases (State v. McMannes, State v. McJunkin, State v. Rubio; State v. Apolinar)
- Development of Yavapai County Protocols for Child Abuse Investigation and Prosecution
- Development of Yavapai County Protocols for Drug Endangered Children Investigations
- Public Education Presentations on MATFORCE goals and vision, the Drug-Crime Connection, Identity Theft and Juvenile Crime Issues
- 2003 Production and distribution of "Driving Under the Influence" commercials for TV and radio
- Production of Elder Financial Abuse Training Video for banks and law enforcement
- Banker's Forum on Elder Financial Abuse – Prescott and Verde Valley
- Formation of County Attorney Charging Unit
- Formation of County Attorney Major Offender Prosecution Program
- Reviewed and edited revision of PANT (Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking) Procedures Manual
- Law Enforcement Seminars sponsored by County Attorney
- Enhancement of County Attorney internal database
- Enhanced prosecution use of technology in the courtroom
- Bad Check Program forms made available on Yavapai County Web Page
- Formation of Speaker's Bureau
- Preservation of Photographic Exhibition of past District Attorneys and County Attorneys for Yavapai County
- Named by The Arizona Republic in "10 Local Women Whose Stories of Challenge Will Inspire You," January 3, 2011.
- Named by Prescott Enews.com in "22 That Made a Difference in 2010."

Appearances & Publications

- Keynote Speaker, NARTA Class 49 Graduation, December 10, 2020
- [Yavapai County attorney guides legal community in Holocaust education \(azcentral.com\)](https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/election/2020/12/03/yavapai-county-attorney-guides-legal-community-holocaust-education/5844440002/), Dec. 3, 2020
- [Meet the Dogs Fighting Fentanyl - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, Dec. 3, 2020
- "Elder Financial Fraud," presenter for Lions Club, Nov. 12, 2020
- "Prosecutorial Ethics," Guest Speaker, ASU College of Law, November 10, 2020
- "Guidelines to Protect Our Vulnerable Population," Prescott Estate Planning Council, co-presenter, Oct. 28, 2020
- [Murder in Prescott: The Case of the Left-Handed 7 Wood - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, Oct. 12, 2020
- 23rd Annual Arizona Drug Summit: "Uniting for Solutions," September 14, 2020, Moderator and Panel Presenter
- [Yavapai County's Memorial to Fallen Officers Taking Shape - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, August 14, 2020
- [Decriminalizing Mental Illness in Yavapai County - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, June 3, 2020
- [Sex Trafficking: See Something, Say Something - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, April 1, 2020
- [The Hard Truth About Marijuana and Health - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, Feb. 13, 2020
- [Yavapai County Search and Rescue: A 50-year Old Story of Heroes - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, Dec. 31, 2019

- Yavapai County "Connecting Communities" Symposium, Moderator, December 12, 2019
- American Bar Association Fall Leadership Meeting, Plenary Session Panelist "Judicial Independence and the Rule of Law: An Arizona Story," October 4, 2019
- 2nd Annual Arizona Drug Summit: "Uniting for Solutions," September 23-24, 2019, Moderator and Panel Presenter
- Global Drug Policy Summit hosted by The Institute for Behavior and Health, Smart Approaches to Marijuana, Drug Free America Foundation and the World Federation Against Drugs, "Drug Prevention: Looking Outside the Box for Solutions," June 26, 2019
- National District Attorneys Association, Executive Course: Course presenter for "What You Do Matters; Lessons from the Holocaust," June 14, 2019
- [A Voice for Victims of Crime - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, June 4, 2019
- [ROX Interview: Sheila Polk - Yavapai County Attorney - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) January 29, 2019
- Yavapai County "Connecting Communities" Symposium, Moderator, November 29, 2018
- Arizona Town Hall, Panel Presenter "Reducing Recidivism," November 9, 2018
- Title 36 Town Halls, Moderator, November 5, 2018
- [EVERY DAY IS A GOOD DAY TO THANK A POLICE OFFICER - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, Oct. 10, 2018
- 1st Annual Arizona Drug Summit: "Uniting for Solutions," September 24-25, 2018, Moderator and Panel Presenter
- [SEXUAL ASSAULT: HELP IS A CLICK AWAY - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, August 1, 2018
- APAAC Summer Conference Presenter: "Overcoming Bias in Sexual Assault Cases," Co-Presenter with Chief Jerald Monahan, Yavapai College, June 2018
- End Violence Against Women International Conference, Plenary I Presenter: "Overcoming Bias in the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Assault," April 3, 2018, Chicago
- Faculty Member and Presenter since 2014 for CWAG Alliance Partnership, a cooperative initiative among state and federal entities to strengthen the legal system in Mexico by training in programs that promote the consistent application of the rule of law disciplines
- The Police Chief Outreach, "The Effect of Cultural Bias on the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Assault," co-authored with Jerald Monahan, Chief of Yavapai College, April 2018, <http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/>
- [MATFORCE 12 YEARS OF BREAKING GROUND, LEADING THE WAY - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, May 5, 2018
- [WHAT YOU DO MATTERS: LESSONS FROM THE HOLOCAUST - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, Feb. 2, 2018
- End Violence Against Women Train-the-Trainer Presenter: "Overcoming Bias in the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Assault," January 12, 2018, Phoenix
- [AMERICA'S CRISIS NOT JUST OPIOIDS, BUT ALL DRUGS - Prescott LIVING Magazine](#) by Sheila Polk, Dec. 6, 2017
- Presidential Award, Arizona State Bar Convention for chairing seminar titled: "What You Do Matters: Lessons from the Holocaust," 2013
- April 2013 Panel Presenter for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C., 20th Anniversary Commemoration
- Panel Member, Anne Frank Exhibit "Lessons from the Holocaust," East Valley Jewish Community Center, Chandler, AZ., February 28, 2012
- Panel Member, The Blessings Exhibit, November 29, 2011, George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, Phoenix, AZ.

- Keynote Speaker, Phoenix College 2010 Commencement Ceremony, "Taking Initiative. Raising Awareness. Inspiring Action." May 14, 2010, Phoenix, AZ.
- Panel presenter for Arizona Law Day, "Law, Justice and the Holocaust: What You Do Matters," sponsored by Arizona Supreme Court, Arizona State Bar Association, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, April 30, 2010
- Keynote Speaker, Days of Remembrance, "The Holocaust Matters," Temple Solel, Scottsdale, Az., April 10, 2010
- 2009 Panel Presenter for Days of Remembrance, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C.

Honors

2020 Outstanding Arizona Elected Official of the Year presented by the Arizona Rural Health Association (AzRHA)

2019 Outstanding Alumni Award, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

2019 Yavapai County 25 Years of Service Recognition

2019 Beacon of Hope Award, presented by Prevent Child Abuse AZ (August)

2018 David's Hope Mental Health Criminal Justice Collaboration Award winner (August)

2018 Outstanding Prevention Effort awarded to Opioid Response Group, awarded by Arizona HIDTA (July)

2018 Gerda and Kurt Klein Guardian of Freedom Award, presented by APAAC (June)

2018 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Tribute Dinner, Agent of Change Recognition (April)

2017 Dancing for the Stars for Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona, Outstanding Showmanship Award (April 21, 2017)

2017 Patrick J. Kennedy Outstanding Advocacy Award, awarded to Arizona/No Prop 205, by national SAM Marijuana Summit (April 20, 2017)

2015 Exemplary Award to MATFORCE from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors

2015 Arizonans for Prevention Kris Bell Service Award for Outstanding Prevention Services

2014 CADCA Coalition of the Year for 2013 presented to MATFORCE

2013 Guardian of Freedom Award, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Prescott, Arizona

2013 Public Safety Honoree, Arizona Capitol Times Leaders of the Year in Public Policy Awards

2012 Michael C. Cudahy Criminal Justice Award from the Arizona State Bar

2012 Arizona Narcotics Officers Association Meritorious Service Award

2011 Prescott Area Leadership Woman of the Year

2011 Shofar Zakhor Award, Yom Hashoah Commemoration, Phoenix Holocaust Survivors' Association

2011 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Tribute Dinner Honoree

2009, MATFORCE awarded CADCA Coalition of Excellence

2004 Yavapai County's Early Disposition Court received the Arizona Supreme Court Justice for a Better Arizona Award

2000 Arizona Outstanding Felony Prosecutor for Rural Counties from APAAC

2000 Outstanding Felony Prosecutor of Yavapai County

1998 Outstanding Felony Prosecutor of Yavapai County

1993 Outstanding Felony Prosecutor for the Arizona Attorney General's Office

Other

Arizona native; married, 3 children; Former Big Sister, Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters